

Texas Water Development Board

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TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator *KP*
Ken Petersen, General Counsel *KP*
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer *RT*
David Carter, Agency Contract Administrator *DC*
Dan Hardin, Interim Deputy Executive Administrator *DH*
Water Resources Planning and Information

FROM: Matt Nelson, Manager, Regional Water Planning *MN*

DATE: October 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Facilitation Contract for HB4 Stakeholder Committee Prioritization Process

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing a transfer of funds, not to exceed \$10,000, from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund, for a contract with the University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution for facilitation services to assist a stakeholders committee of regional water planning group chairs in establishing uniform criteria for prioritizing regional water plan projects.

BACKGROUND

House Bill 4 (83rd Legislature) established a project prioritization process to be conducted by the regional water planning groups. As part of this process, House Bill 4 requires the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to create a Stakeholders Committee composed of regional water planning group chairs or their designees. This Committee must establish uniform standards to be used by the regional water planning groups in prioritizing projects in their regional plans. If voters approve Proposition 6 on the November 5, 2013, ballot, these uniform standards must be submitted to the TWDB for approval by December 1, 2013. To assist the stakeholders in developing the uniform standards, TWDB will execute a contract with the University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution to facilitate the work of the Committee. To fully fund this contract, funds must be transferred from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund.

Our Mission :	Board Members
To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas :	Carlos Rubinstein, Chairman Bech Bruun, Member Mary Ann Williamson, Member
	Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator

KEY ISSUES


The total amount of the facilitation contract is an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

It is anticipated that the contract will be executed by the time of this Board Meeting and is to allow for preparation and facilitation of Stakeholder Committee Meetings prior to December 1, 2013. The initial work of the facilitator prior to this Board Meeting has been funded out of General Revenue funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorizing a transfer of funds, not to exceed \$10,000, from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund, for a contract with the University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution for facilitation services to assist a stakeholders committee of regional water planning group chairs in establishing uniform criteria for prioritizing regional water plan projects.

This recommendation has been reviewed by legal counsel and the action requested is within the authority of the Board.



Ken Petersen
General Counsel